



Thailand has been re-elected as a member of IMO Council under Category C

As a member of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Thailand has nominated a delegation to attend the 25 Regular Session of IMO Assembly held on 19 – 30 November 2007. The Thai delegation was led by Mr. Kitti Wasinont, the Ambassador of the Royal Thai Embassy in London, and also consisted of senior officials from relevant authorities including Mr. Chalor Kotcharat, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport, Sub.Lt. Preecha Phetwong, Deputy Director General of the Marine Department, Mr. Chalermchai Meekhun-iam, Director of Bangkok Port, Port Authority of Thailand, and officials from the Ministry of Transport, Marine Department, Port Authority of Thailand and the Royal Thai Embassy. During the Meeting of the IMO Assembly, an election of members of IMO Council for the next 2-year term was convened on 23 November 2007, in which Thailand had also presented itself as a candidature for a member of Category C of the Council. As a result of its continued good efforts, Thailand has been re-elected as a member of the IMO Council under Category C for the second time after being elected for the first time during the 24 Regular Session in November 2005.

The main functions of the Council are to consider and refine recommendations and reports of the IMO Committees and budget estimates before transmitting them to the Assembly for approval, to monitor and control IMO's work and activities as well as to perform other functions of Organization. Members of the Council consist of 40 Member States elected by the Assembly which are divided into 3 categories as follows:

Category A: 10 from governments of nations with the largest interest in providing international shipping services;

Category B: 10 from governments of nations with the largest interest in international seaborne trade;

Category C: 20 from governments of nations which do not fall under A and B, but have special interests in international shipping services and form balanced geographical representations.

Being elected as a member of IMO Council will provide Thailand a good opportunity to express its views/opinions to support policy proposals/recommendations that will assist Thailand as well as developing/least developed countries to implement IMO instruments more efficiently and effectively.

Member States which have been elected as members of IMO Council at the 25th Regular Session of IMO Assembly are as follows:

Category A: China, Greece, Italy, Japan, Norway, Panama, Republic of Korea, Russia, United Kingdom and United States;

Category B: Brazil, India, Germany, Spain, Canada, the Netherlands, France, Sweden, Argentina and Bangladesh;

Category C: Singapore, Bahamas, Cyprus, Indonesia, the Philippines, Egypt, Turkey, Malta, Denmark, Chile, Malaysia, South Africa, Australia, Kenya, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Jamaica, **Thailand**, Nigeria and Mexico.

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